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SHADOW



ЕНЕНЕНЕНЕНЕНЕНЕНЕН

BODY & SOUL • Part 3

P U B L I S H O R I A L

J E N E T T E • K A H N

As a child, I seldom if ever read WONDER WOMAN. Guided by my older brother in all the important areas of life, I read boy comics, and BATMAN, as I've mentioned before, was my favorite. But when I came to DC, I met people like Gloria Steinem for whom Wonder Woman had deep and personal meaning. Looking closely at her for the first time, I was struck by two things: the uniqueness of her character and the overwhelming number of bad scripts in which she had appeared.

Two years ago, the wonderfully talented artist-writer George Pérez took on both these elements. He gave us a new Wonder Woman as compelling and multi-dimensional as the original. And he gave us new stories, dazzlingly rich in mythology, characterization, fine plotting, and humanity.

George says he took on Wonder Woman because "I didn't feel it was fair with all the attention being given to our major characters that Wonder Woman was being overlooked. It was hard to get teams on the book and people were usually assigned to it. I volunteered."

"I thought the mythology was so rich and I wanted to take Wonder Woman's essence and make her as pure as possible. I wasn't motivated by nostalgia. I was drawn by the tremendous potential of the original concept."

What was the original concept? To understand it, we have to go back to the beginnings of the comic industry.

Wonder Woman was created some forty-eight years ago by a psychologist, Dr. William Marston, who used the pen name Charles Moulton in signing his comic book work. Superman, of course, had debuted two years earlier in ACTION #1 and his appearance had spawned literally hundreds of male imitations. Dr. Marston was a feminist, perhaps even a female supremacist, and he cast a cold eye on the burgeoning industry of male super heroes. With whom were little girls going to identify? Sensing an essential need, he answered it with Wonder Woman, gifted by the gods with wisdom, beauty, speed, and strength, with a generous spirit and a gentle heart, with a reverence for nature and all living things.

Far from brandishing her power, Wonder Woman used her singularity to be both an ethical and an exemplary prophet. As George Pérez says, "Wonder Woman is not a crime fighter. If she were one, it would be totally opposed to her beliefs. Diana is here to teach. She wants to attack evil at its root."

Dr. Marston's Wonder Woman envisioned a society built on the twin principles of equality and peace. Compassion was her watchword. And although linking herself to other women by living and teaching the precepts of sisterhood, she believed in human rights for all, male or female, black or yellow or white, African or Chinese or American.

As George Pérez points out, "Wonder Woman considers herself a human and an Amazon first. She's not an American, which is why she would feel more comfortable joining

the Justice League *International* than the Justice League of *America*."

George says that "even those who hate the revisionist views of many of the characters write to tell me I'm true to Charles Moulton's spirit." But this doesn't mean that he hasn't changed some of the basics. He recalls to me that I was caught totally off guard when he said he wasn't going to use Steve Trevor as a romantic interest because falling in love with the first man Diana met was just a cliché.

"It Wonder Woman was going to be an icon of womanhood," says George, "then Steve Trevor would not be good enough for her. No one would, at least not in the beginning. Diana is too dedicated to her cause to fall in love with the first man she sees."

And, in addition, George has invented two full and credible supporting characters, Julia Kapatelis and her daughter Vanessa. When Diana, Julia, and Nessie are together we have three generations of womanhood, each with its own concerns, but linked together by heartfelt ties of love and respect.

All of our favorite characters are going to appear in the WONDER WOMAN ANNUAL due to appear in August. Subtitled "Amazons," it's composed of six stories each thematically linked by notions of Amazonian spirit. Although it's hard to believe, this is, according to George, "the first annual Wonder Woman has ever had. She's been in giant-sized books before, but she herself has never had an actual annual in her 48-year history."

The cover alone is worth the \$1.50 purchase price. It is one of George's best, and owes its debt to the many complex curvilinear art nouveau posters of the late 19th and early 20th century.

Inside, says WONDER WOMAN editor Karen Berger, "The six chapters are each about an Amazon or a person like Myndi Mayer or Steve Trevor or Etta Candy who conveys in some sense the compassion and pride of the Amazons. A sub-plot of the previous books has been the Amazons' big debate as to whether they should allow other people from patriarchal world to come to Paradise Island. The debate ends with them agreeing to share their culture and Wonder Woman saying she would like to start with the two people she loves the most, Vanessa and Julia."

"This is the beginning of a new era," emphasizes George. "It was Karen who posed the question: what is all their learning about if the Amazons remain sequestered and don't share their attributes with the rest of the world?"

Explaining the structure, Karen adds that in "each chapter Vanessa and Julia talk to Amazons or go on a tour of Paradise Island and each incident sparks a different tale."

George wrote all the stories but drew only one. The list of other artists reflects George's personal taste and reads like a star-strewn Who's Who: pencillers Art Adams, Jose Luis Garcia Lopez, Brian Bolland, John Bolton, Curt

Swan, Ross Andru, and inkers Mark Farmer and Bob McCleod. As a special tribute, George is inking Ross Andru who drew Wonder Woman for so many years.

Says George: "I came up with the first list of artists. I wanted to work with artists I've always admired and most of my first choices said 'yes.' I also wanted people who had styles not too dissimilar from mine so that it wouldn't be jarring."

In the course of the Annual we discover what special connection Julia has with the Amazons. We also learn, according to George, "more about Myndi Mayer now that she's dead than when she was alive." The Myndi Mayer story is drawn by George.

We also learn that there are many more Amazons (or Amazon-influenced people) traveling the Earth than there are on Paradise Island. "These women, or their off-spring, male or female, have provided humankind with a lot of the progress we've enjoyed," says George.

"The Amazons have had an influence in our world for peace, equality, discipline, religious tolerance, the right to be an individual, and a oneness with nature. The Amazons never really left humankind. They've been among us." And, George amplifies, "this is an idea that came up at lunch with Gloria Steinem. I wanted a strong feminist point of view and she gave me a very, very sound springboard."

Karen notes that each chapter of the annual tells a private life story even though the book was plotted before private lives became the theme of this summer's DC annuals. "The private lives theme adds another dimension to the focus of the Annual: what is an Amazon? Their inner and outer strength, beauty, pride, and compassion are all things we can aspire to."

George confesses that "Wonder Woman necessitated I do the best work I possibly could because she needed it." Time and time again in the ongoing book, George has given us just that—a work of personal passion and vision, a read more intense than perhaps any other comic book being published today. Now, in the Annual, George has given us his best work once again.

If you're reading the WONDER WOMAN run, I don't need to urge you to buy the Annual. You wouldn't miss it for the world. But if you were skeptical about the new WONDER WOMAN and never picked it up, why not start with the annual? And then have your comic book store put together for you every issue beginning with #1. WONDER WOMAN is one of the best comic books put out by any publisher. It's worth every hour to read it. It's worth every dollar to collect it.

—Jenette

Be Sure To Check Out
WONDER WOMAN #22—
On Sale Now!

THE CAMPUS OF MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY...

I'M SURE
TAYLOR'S GONNA
FAIL ME...

DOES IT
REALLY MATTER?
AFTER ALL,
WE'LL ALWAYS
HAVE EACH
OTHER...

I GUESS...IT'S
JUST THAT
TAYLOR CAN BE
SUCH A PAIN
IN THE A--

PHUT

AKKKKK!

LORI--?

WHO--?

UGKKK!

" AT 7 PM TODAY, AN
UNIDENTIFIED SNIPER BEGAN
RANDOMLY SHOOTING AT
MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS,
KILLING FIFTEEN. AT THIS
HOUR, THE SIEGE CONTINUES "

6-4270

THIS IS ROGER BLUNT, REPORTING LIVE FOR EYEBLITZ NEWS. POLICE HAVE MANAGED TO PINPOINT THE SCHOOL'S **BELL TOWER** AS THE **SOURCE** OF THE SNIPER ATTACK...

BUT SO FAR, THEY HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION TO APPREHEND THE KILLER...THEY SEEM TO BE **WAITING**...

...BUT WAITING FOR **WHAT**...?



PERHAPS INSPECTOR CARDONA HAS SOME ANSWERS.

INSPECTOR! EXACTLY HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CAPTURE THIS SNIPER?

...AND HE WAS A **BIG FELLA**, SIX TEN AT LEAST... BUT THE SHADOWY TOOK 'IM DOWN LIKE **RED GRANCE**...



DON'T YOU WORRY, BLUNT--HE'LL GET HIS--ANY MINUTE NOW, BY MY WATCH!

BUT INSPECTOR--YOUR MEN DON'T SEEM TO BE DOING A **THING**--!

AS PER MY **ORDERS**, SONNY!

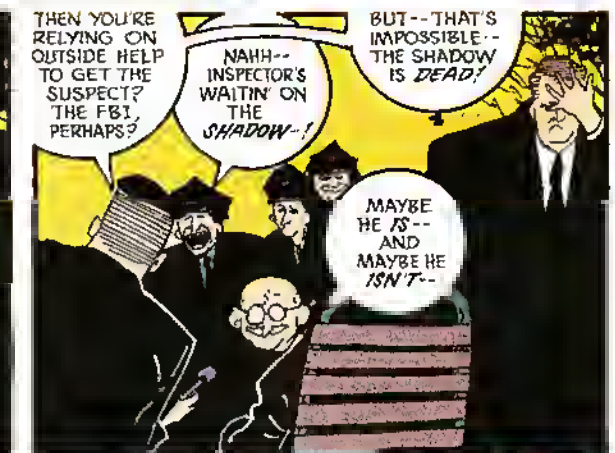


THEN YOU'RE RELYING ON OUTSIDE HELP TO GET THE SUSPECT? THE FBI, PERHAPS?

NAHH-- INSPECTOR'S WAITIN' ON THE **SHADOW**--!

BUT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE-- THE **SHADOW** IS DEAD!

MAYBE HE IS-- AND MAYBE HE ISN'T--



"...WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH--!"

DAMN, IT WAS JUST GETTIN' **GOOD**--TILL THE COPS CLEARED EVERYONE OUT.



WHERE'S THE **FUN** IN THAT...?



POOPS IS WHAT THEY ARE... **REAL POOPS**.

AIN'T NOTHING LEFT TO **KILL**... GOTTA SCOPE OUT SOME **NEW MEAT**.

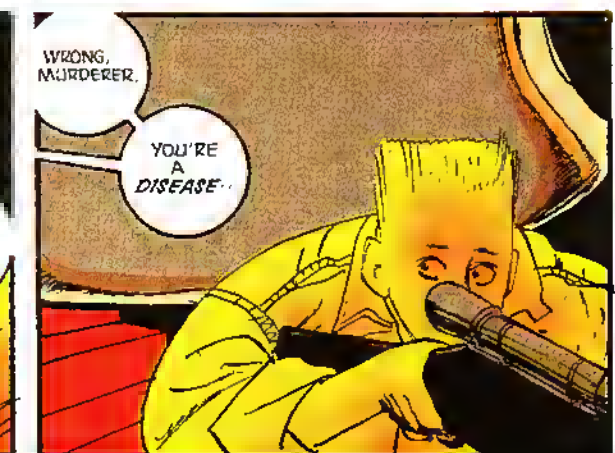
GOT A GOOD SCORE **SO FAR**-- DADDY WOULD BE **PROUD**...

...I'M A **GOOD LITTLE HUNTER**...



WRONG, **MURDERER**.

YOU'RE A **DISEASE**...





BODY AND SOUL, PART THREE NIGHT OF THE INOCULATOR!

ANDY
HELPER
WRITER

KYLE
BAKER
ARTIST

BOB
LAPPAN
LETTERS

TOM
ZILKO
COLORS

RENEE
WITTERSTAETTER
ASSISTANT EDITS

MIKE
CARLIN
EDITS

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DON'T
COME ANY
CLOSER!
I-I'LL DO IT!
I SWEAR
I WILL!

YOU
PATHETIC
GERM!

YOU THINK
YOU CAN ESCAPE
MY TREATMENT
WITH AN EASY
SUICIDE?

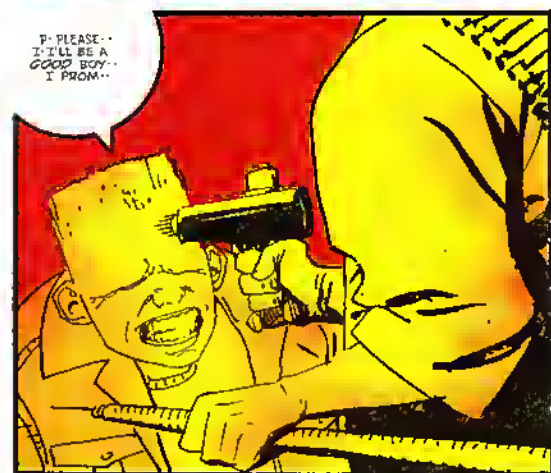


THERE ARE
MILLIONS
LIKE YOU
OUT THERE--
VIRULENT CELLS
IN THE CANCER
THAT INFESTS
SOCIETY!

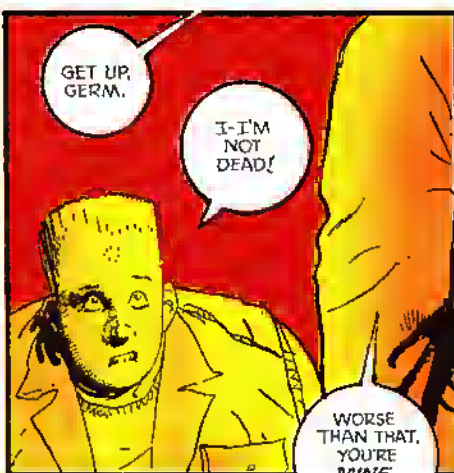
TO ALLOW
ONE GERM
THE LUXURY
OF SUICIDE
WOULD ONLY
ENCOURAGE
THE OTHERS!

AN EXAMPLE
MUST BE MADE
TO SHOW THE
BITTER
CONSEQUENCES
OF
IMPULSE...

YOU
WILL PAY
THE
PRICE.



P- PLEASE--
I-I'LL BE A
GOOD BOY--
I PROM--



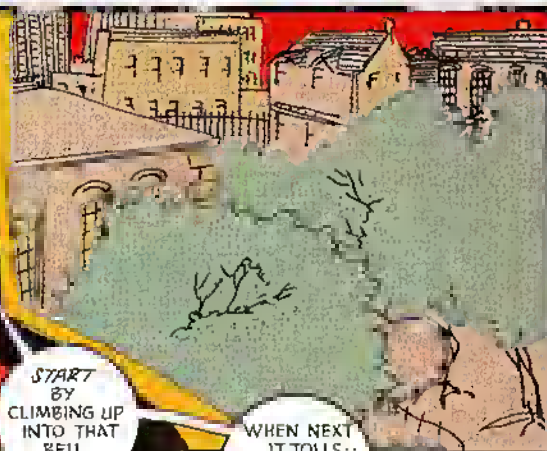
GET UP,
GERM.

I-I'M
NOT
DEAD!

WORSE
THAN THAT,
YOU'RE
MINE.

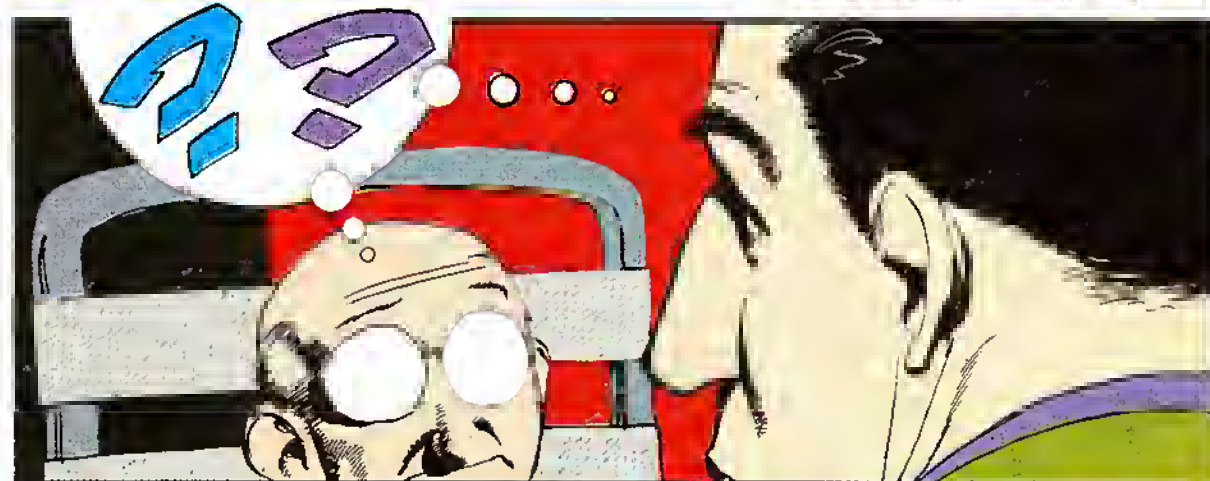
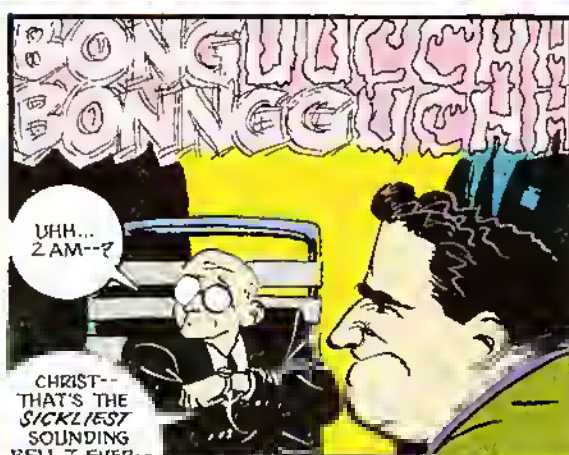
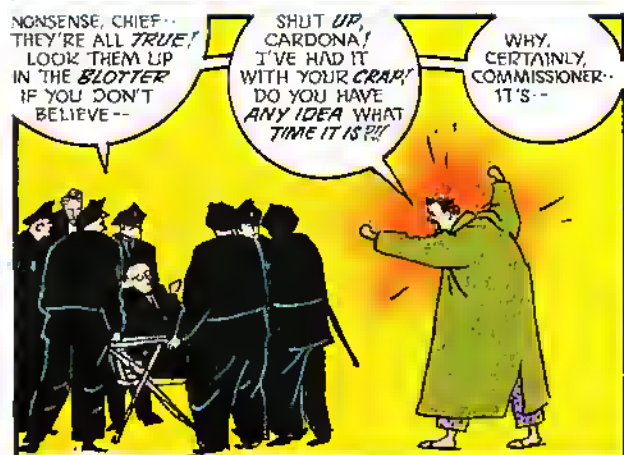


WHAT
DO YOU WANT
ME TO DO?
EN-EN- ENYTHING...
I'LL DO IT...



START
BY
CLIMBING UP
INTO THAT
BELL...

WHEN NEXT
IT TOLLS...



...ON THE SCENE, AS THE BODY OF THE SNIPER IS REMOVED...INITIAL REPORTS NOTE THE HEAD BEARS THE TELLTALE VACCINATION MARK OF THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS THE INOCULATOR--

--DISAPPOINTING INSPECTOR CARDONA, WHO, SOME SAY, WAS HOPING THE SHADOW, ALTHOUGH BELIEVED DEAD, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLER'S SWIFT APPREHENSION...

HE AIN'T THE ONLY ONE...

BUT HEY--WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE CAN GET, Y'KNOW--IF ONLY WE C'N FIND HIM!

BUT YOU CAN'T--THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO ME.

WELL--YES.

I'M NOT CHEAP, YOU KNOW...

NOT CHEAP? ANYONE WHO'D EVEN THINK TO CHARGE US AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER IS PRETTY DAMN CHEAP IN MY BOOK, MISTER MAGNET!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, MAVIS--AND YOU KNOW IT.

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE HAD SOME UNEXPECTED... EXPENSES LATELY--LEGAL COSTS NOT THE LEAST OF THEM...

HUH?

I UH... SHOT A COUPLE OF HOLDUP MEN LAST WEEK--TWITCH SAW IT ALL--SURPRISED HE HASN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT IT...

ACTUALLY, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM TWITCH SINCE THE MASTER DIED--FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HE'S JUST DISAPPEARED!

WITH A BATTLE-AX LIKE GIVEN TO COME HOME TO EVERY NIGHT, I C'N UNNERSTAN' WHY!

LOOK, MAGNET--WE NEED TO FIND THIS INOCULATOR GUY--JUDGING FROM THE WAY HE OPERATES, HE'S JUST THE MAN WE NEED TO LEAD US!

WELL, HE'S GOT A HELL-UV A MODUS OPERANDI; I'LL GIVE HIM THAT--AND HE AIN'T MUCH ON COMPASSION, EITHER...I MEAN, HE'LL NEVER FILL THE SHADOW'S SHOES, BUT...

ACTUALLY, WE WERE HOPING HIS SONS WOULD--BUT UNTIL THEY GET BACK FROM SHAMBALA--

LISTEN, MAVIS--I'VE SEEN THOSE KIDS IN ACTION. STICK WITH THIS INOCULATOR FELLA--

"--THOSE IRRESPONSIBLE LITTLE CREEPS
ARE NEVER COMING BACK..."

HSU: ARE
YOU THINKING
WHAT I AM
THINKING?

THAT
WE ARE
ABOUT TO
DIE?

NO--
THAT PERHAPS
DOCTOR TAM
WAS *CORRECT*--
THAT WE *SHOULD*
HAVE HAD FATHER
CREMATED...

TRUE, IT SEEMS-- IF
WE HAD DONE *THAT*,
THEN WE WOULD
NEVER HAVE ATTEMPTED
THE JOURNEY TO
SHAMBALA...

...WOULD
NEVER HAVE
BEEN WAYLAID
IN THIS TOWN
OF
MALICE...

...WOULD NEVER
HAVE HAD OUR
DEAR DEPARTED
FATHER'S BODY
STOLEN OUT
FROM UNDER OUR
VERY NOSES...

...AND MOST
IMPORTANT...

...WOULD NEVER
HAVE ENDED UP
IN THIS CLOSET
WITH OUR *HANDS*
TIED BEHIND
OUR BACKS...

SHADDAP,
YOU TWO!

WE'VE
REACHED OUR
VERDICT,
ANCIENTS--

--AND YOU
AIN'T GONNA
LIKE IT!

YOU GOTTA PAY
THE *ULTIMATE*
PRICE FOR
BUSTIN' UP OUR
VID-CON!

UMM...
MIGHT I SUGGEST
WE CALL FOR THE
ARBITRATOR--?
HE SEEMS TO KNOW
WHAT TO DO IN
THESE SITUATIONS--

WE DON'T NEED
NO *STINKIN'*
ARBITRATOR HERE,
ANCIENT! WE GOT
THE *RULE BOOK*--
IT'S GOT
EVERYTHING
WE NEED TO
KNOW!

HOW TO WIN
AT
PAC-MAN??

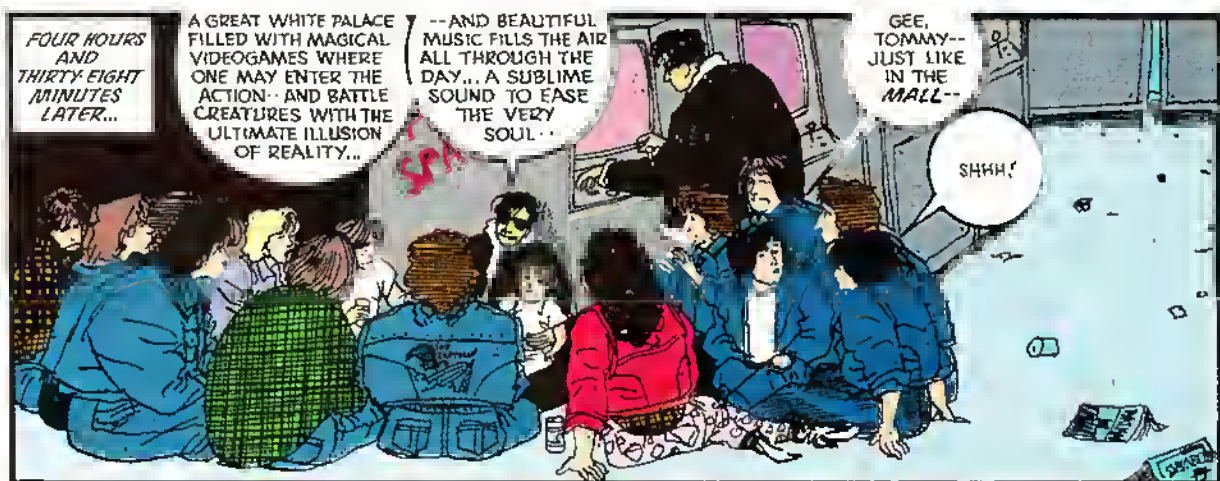
ALLA
YOU ANCIENTS
ARE THE *SAME*--
LOCKIN' US UP, THEN
BUSTIN' UP OUR ACTION,
RUININ' THE *FUN*--
JUST 'CAUSE YOU THINK
YOU'RE IN CONTROL!

BUT HERE--*WE'RE*
IN CONTROL! WE
MAKE THE *RULES*--
WE PICK THE
LUCKY NUMBERS--
WE GIVE THE
FREE PLAYS--

.. AND
WE DECIDE
WHEN IT'S
GAME OVER,
MAN!

LIKE
NOW--WHEN
THAT *BUCKET*
FALLS--
FRY!





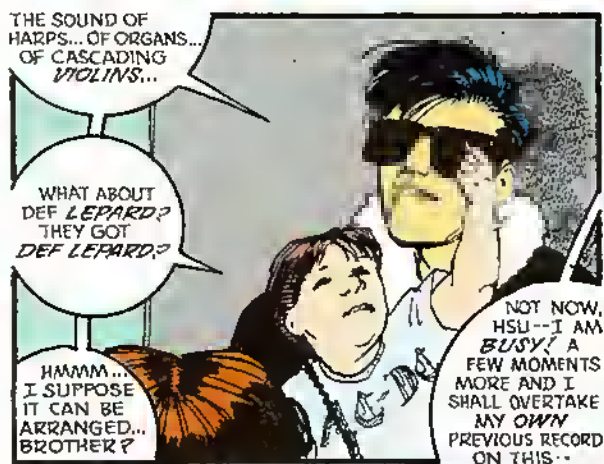
FOUR HOURS
AND
THIRTY EIGHT
MINUTES
LATER...

A GREAT WHITE PALACE
FILLED WITH MAGICAL
VIDEOGAMES WHERE
ONE MAY ENTER THE
ACTION-- AND BATTLE
CREATURES WITH THE
ULTIMATE ILLUSION
OF REALITY...

--AND BEAUTIFUL
MUSIC FILLS THE AIR
ALL THROUGH THE
DAY... A SUBLIME
SOUND TO EASE
THE VERY
SOUL...

GEE,
TOMMY--
JUST LIKE
IN THE
MALL--

SHHH!

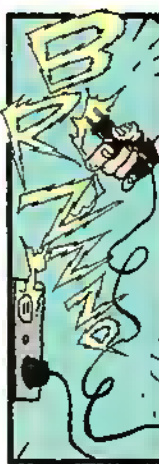


THE SOUND OF
HARPS... OF ORGANS...
OF CASCADING
VIOLINS...

WHAT ABOUT
DEF LEPARD?
THEY GOT
DEF LEPARD?

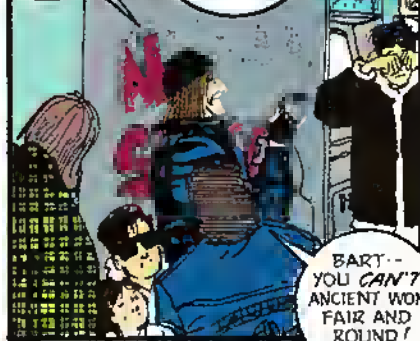
HMMM...
I SUPPOSE
IT CAN BE
ARRANGED...
BROTHER?

NOT NOW,
HSU--I AM
BUSY! A
FEW MOMENTS
MORE AND I
SHALL OVERTAKE
MY OWN
PREVIOUS RECORD
ON THIS--

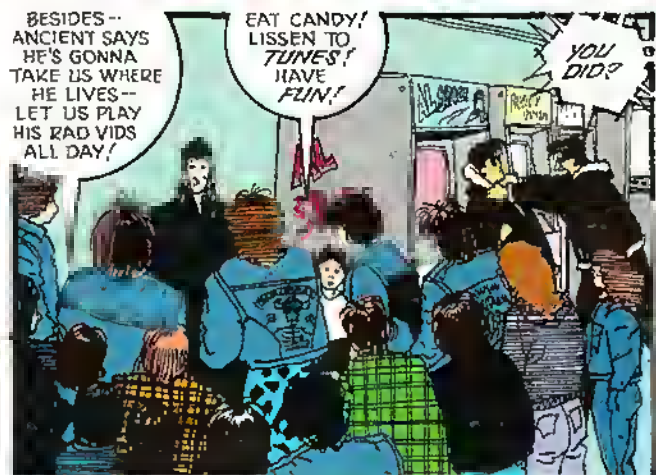


OKAY,
ANCIENT--
YOU HAD
YOUR
FUN--

NOW WE DO
YOU AND YOUR
BLOOD UP--
DROP THE
BUCKET
AND--



BART--
YOU CAN'T--
ANCIENT WON
FAIR AND
ROUND!



BESIDES--
ANCIENT SAYS
HE'S GONNA
TAKE US WHERE
HE LIVES--
LET US PLAY
HIS RAD VIDS
ALL DAY!

EAT CANDY!
LISSSEN TO
TUNES!
HAVE
FUN!

YOU
DID?

PLEASE, BROTHER--
LISTEN TO ME!
THESE CHILDREN--
THEY ARE TO BE PITIED!
THEIR PARENTS-- THE
CITIZENS OF MALICE--
LOCK THEM UP HERE
FOR MONTHS
ON END!

THEY NEVER SEE
THE DAWNING
SUN! NEVER
BREATHE FRESH
AIR! AND
WORST OF ALL--
NO
TELEVISION!

THINK,
HSU--YOU
CANNOT BE
SERIOUS!
WHAT WOULD
FATHER
SAY?



NOTHING,
CHANG--
FATHER
IS--

FATHER--
IS--

UH-OH...

WON'T BE LONG NOW--
ACCORDING TO THE COORDINATES,
PICKUP POINT'S LESS THAN A MILE OFF...

'OW
WE DOIN'
BACK
THERE?

COULD BE
BETTER--LIKE,
MAYBE IF WE HAD
A SNOWMOBILE--
OR A PACK OF
HUSKIES--

COULDN'T AFFORD TO
AROUSE *SUSPICION*,
MATE--IF ANYBODY
FOUND OUT ABOUT
OUR *CARGO*, WE'D'VE
NEVER GOT OUT
OF MALICE
ALIVE...

YEAH, YEAH--
BUT NOT EVEN
A BLOODY
PARKA!
IT'S COLD
OUT HERE!!

NOTHIN' BUT
THE CLOTHES
ON OUR BACKS,
AND THE GUNS
UNDER OUR
BEDS...

ONCE WE'RE
COUNTING THE
CASH WE GET
FOR THIS HAUL,
YOU'LL FORGET
ALL ABOUT
THE COLD...

YOU GOT
A *PRICE*
YET?

NOT TILL SHE
CONFIRMS THE
BODY'S I.D.-- THEN
SHE'LL WIRE THE
MONEY TO US--AND
PROBABLY SEND ALONG
A COUPLE OF
BACKSTAGE
PASSES, TOO...



IT IS A *FINE*
DAY, MEN! JUST
BREATHE IN
THE COOL
CRISP AIR...

BASK IN THE
WARM GLOW
OF THE
FINE SUN...

LISTEN
TO THE
HEARTY WIND
AS IT *BLOWS*
ITS *TUNE*
OF--

SAY!
WHAT
IS THAT
I HEAR?

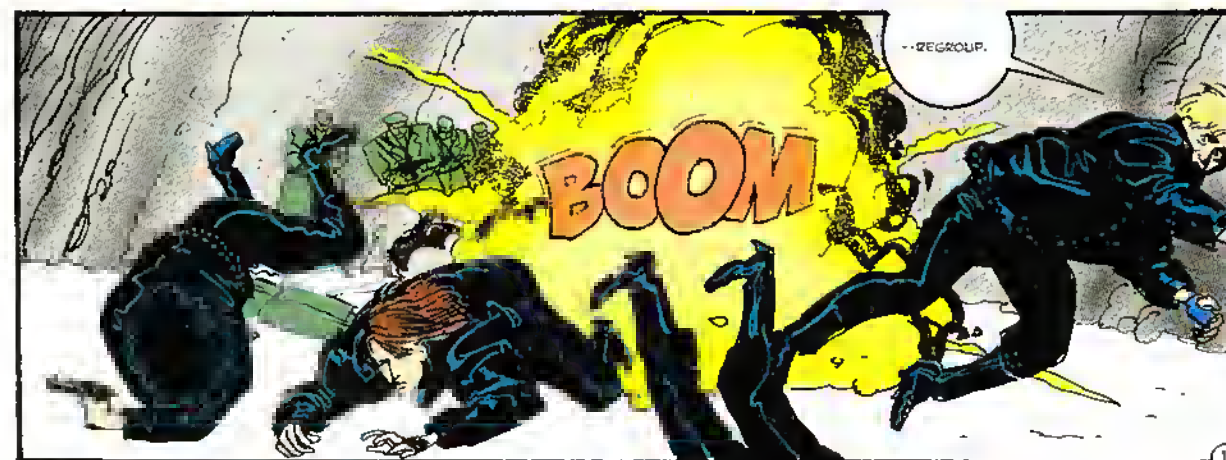
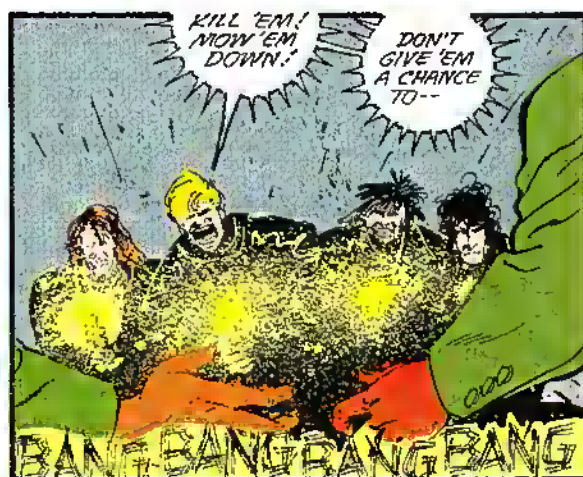
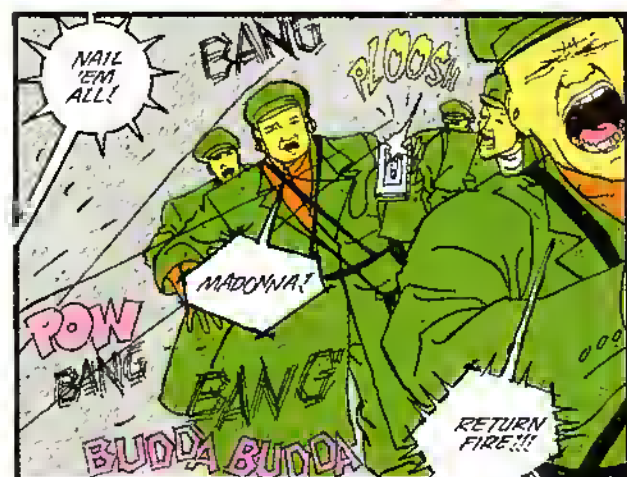
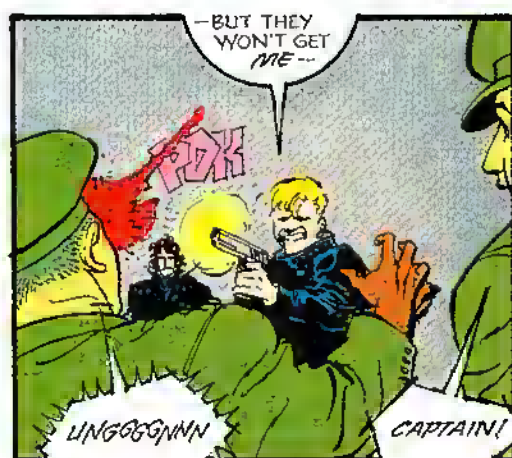
MUSIC, SIR!
THE HILLS ARE
AS THOUGH
ALIVE
WITH IT--

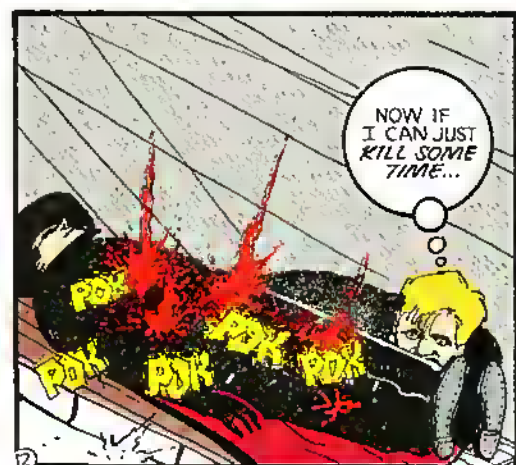
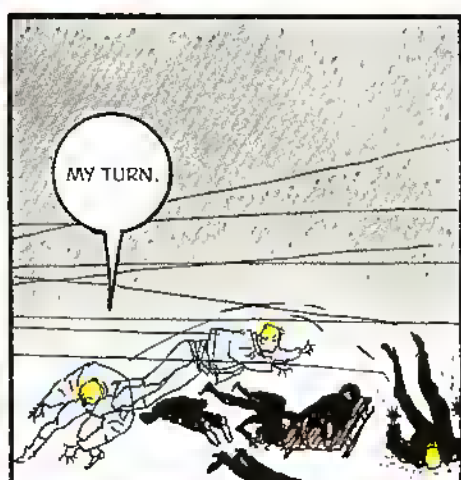
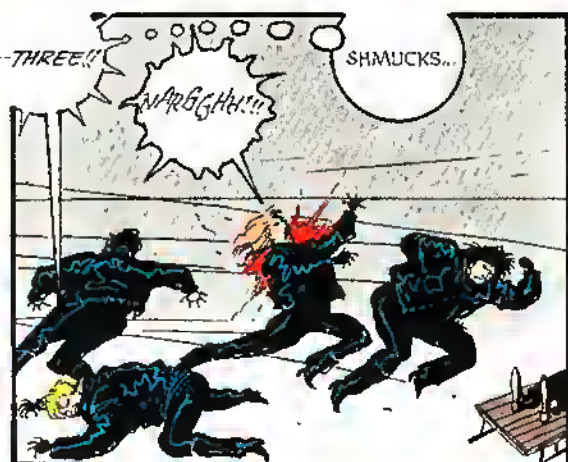
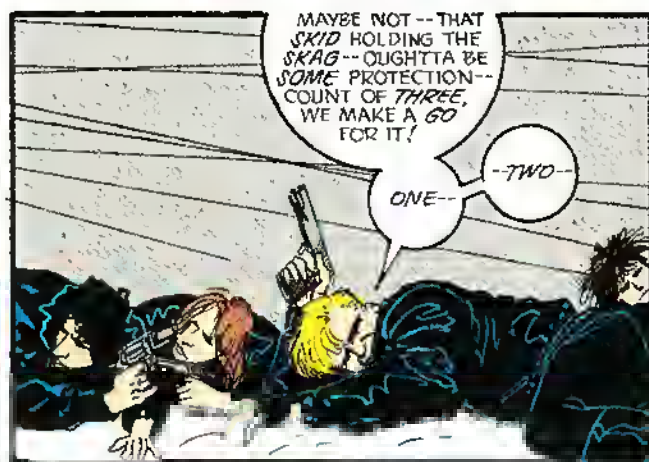
--THANKS TO
THE PORTABLE
STEREO UNIT
RETRIEVED FROM
THE AIRCRAFT
WRECKAGE!

LU FON...
BA DUNG--
MUST I AGAIN
REMINDE YOU THAT
THESE ARE *NOT*
MERE *TRIAL*
MANEUVERS!

WE ARE ON A
MISSION OF
PRIMARY
IMPORTANCE
TO THE
NATION--

--AND UNTIL
WE TRACK DOWN
THOSE *LOST AMERICAN*
TOURISTS--I SUGGEST
YOU KEEP THEIR
CAPITALIST *PLAYTHINGS*
TUNED TO
RADIO BEIJING!







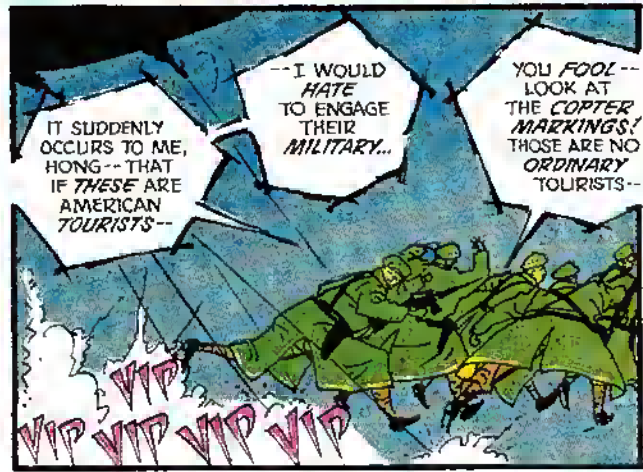
--AIR
ATTACK!!!

TAKE
COVER
TAKE
COVER

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

VIP VIP

VIP

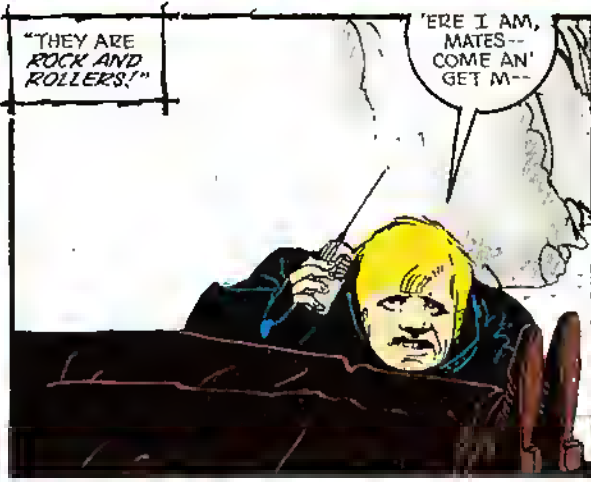


IT SUDDENLY
OCCURS TO ME,
HONG-- THAT
IF *THESE* ARE
AMERICAN
TOURISTS--

--I WOULD
HATE
TO ENGAGE
THEIR
MILITARY...

YOU FOOL--
LOOK AT
THE COPTER
MARKINGS!
THOSE ARE NO
ORDINARY
TOURISTS--

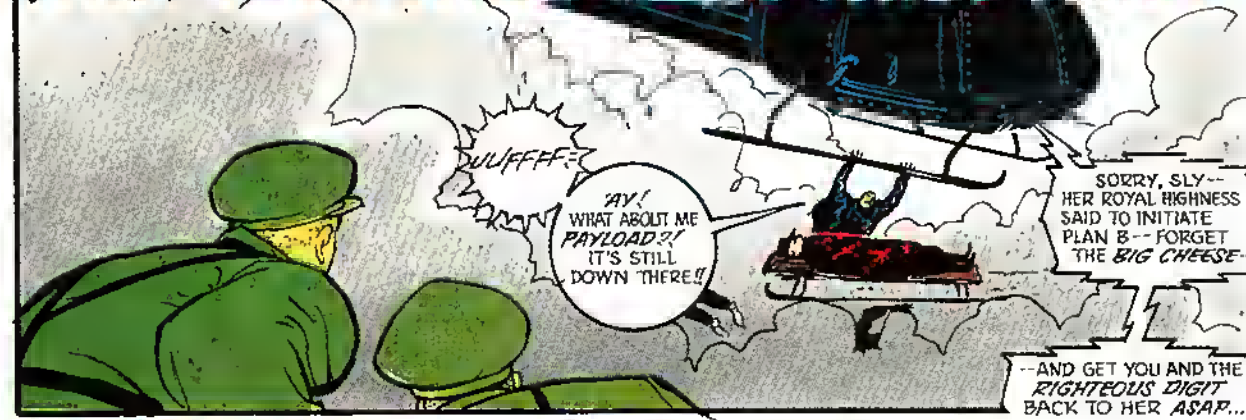
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP



"THEY ARE
ROCK AND
ROLLERS!"

'ERE I AM,
MATES--
COME AN'
GET M--

WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP



WUFFFFF

AY!
WHAT ABOUT ME
PAYLOAD?!
IT'S STILL
DOWN THERE!!

SO SRY--
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
SAID TO INITIATE
PLAN B-- FORGET
THE BIG CHEESE--

--AND GET YOU AND THE
RIGHTEOUS DIGIT
BACK TO HER ASAP..



--SAID
YOU'D KNOW
WHAT SHE'S
TALKING ABOUT--
RIGHT?

--YEAH,
MATE-- I'VE
GOT ME
SOME IDEA...

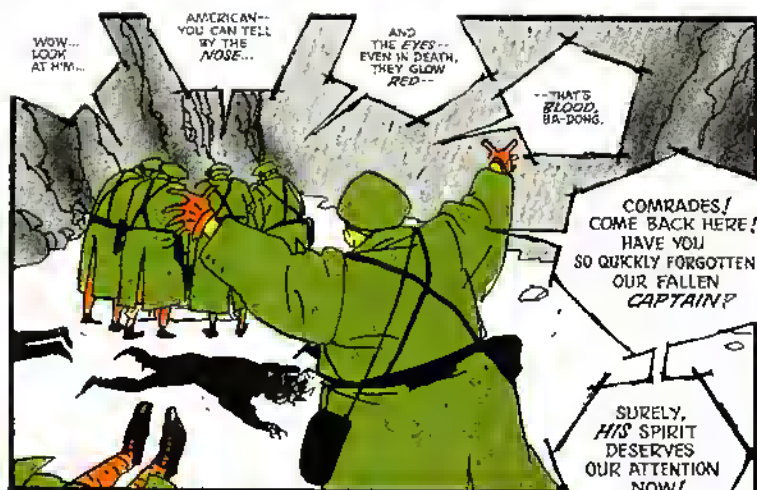
I BELIEVE
THE BATTLE
IS OVER,
COMRADES.

THEY WERE
FORMIDABLE
OPPONENTS--



--THOUGH I AM
NOT YET CERTAIN
WHAT WE WERE
FIGHTING OVER...

COMRADES!
COME AND
SEE!!



WOW...
LOOK
AT HIM...

AMERICAN--
YOU CAN TELL
BY THE
NOSE...

AND
THE EYES--
EVEN IN DEATH,
THEY GLOW
RED--

--THAT'S
BLOOD,
HA-DONG.

COMRADES!
COME BACK HERE!
HAVE YOU
SO QUICKLY FORGOTTEN
OUR FALLEN
CAPTAIN?

SURELY,
HIS SPIRIT
DESERVES
OUR ATTENTION
NOW!

WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY
BE SO
FASCINATING
THAT--

--MAO'S
TEETH!

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
HONG--



--HAVE YOU
NEVER SEEN A
BULLET-RIDDEN
AMERICAN
BEFORE?

YOU FOOL--
THAT IS
NO MAN--
IT IS THE
ONE CALLED
YING KO!

UMMM...
WHO'S
THAT?

YOU DO NOT KNOW?! HAVE YOU NEVER
HEARD THE TALES OF THE MAN FROM THE
EAST--A FRIGHTFUL CREATURE OF THE
NIGHT--WITH THE *POWER* TO CLOUD
THE MINDS OF MEN... AND THE *FURY*
TO OBLITERATE EVIL WITH A
SINGLE SWEEP OF HIS
TERRIBLE HAND?!



FRANKLY,
HONG...
NO

NOR I.

PERHAPS
IF YOU WERE
MORE
SPECIFIC...

DOES
THIS MEAN
WE CANNOT
LIBERATE HIS
RADICAL
GARMENTS?



LOOK--I WILL *PROVE* THAT
HE IS *YING KO!* THE LEGENDS
SAY HE POSSESSED A MYSTICAL
OPAL RING--ONE THAT
COULD *HYPNOTIZE*
WITH A *SINGLE*
GLANCE!

LET US
SEE IF HE
WEARS
IT!



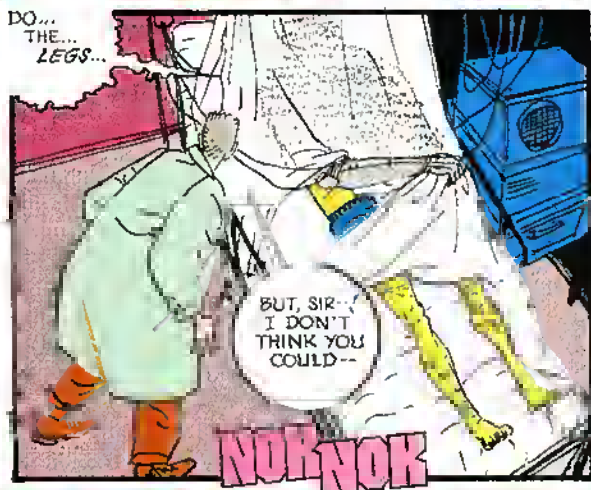
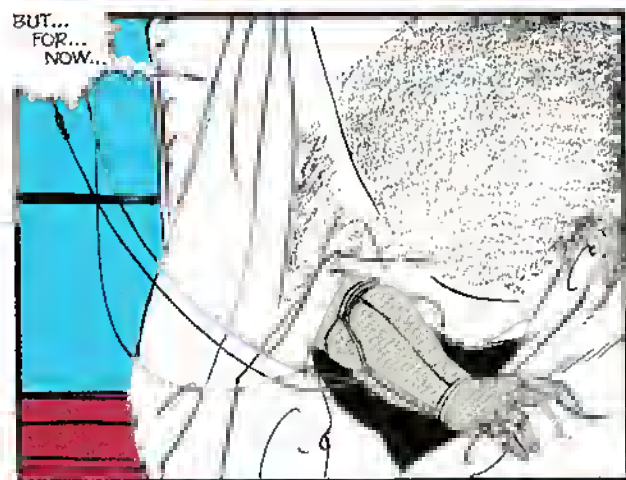
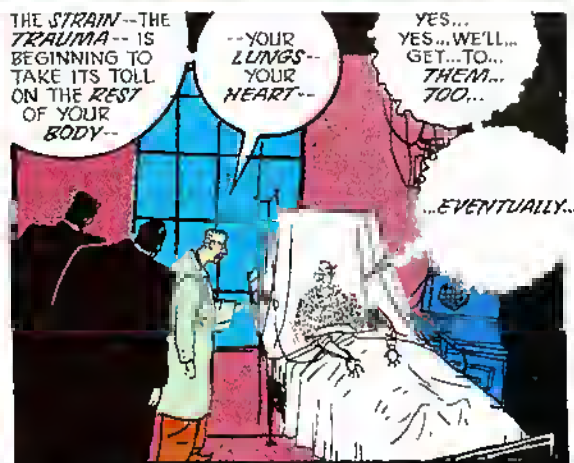
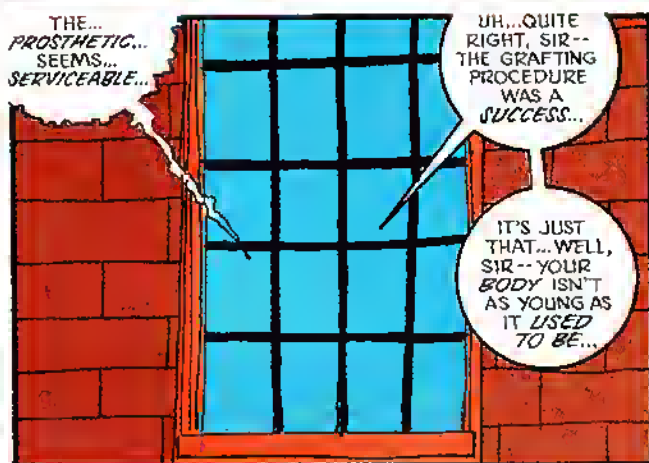
DRAGON'S
BLOOD!
IT-IT IS
GONE!

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT--
THE STRANGERS WE FOUGHT
HAVE *TAKEN IT*-- AND
WHO KNOWS WHAT *EVIL*
PURPOSE THEY WILL
PUT IT TO?!

CARE TO
FIND OUT,
HONG?

CERTAINLY--
BUT *HOW*--?
THE COPTERS ARE
GONE--
FLYING TOO LOW
TO BE DETECTED
BY *RADAR*--

TRUE--
BUT THE
STRANGERS
LEFT A
TRAIL
IN THEIR
WAKE--
FOLLOW
IT--



GEEZ...
BET I'M GONNA
CATCH *HELL* FOR
THAT... DAMN
ROOM ISN'T EVEN
ON MY
ROUNDS...

WHAT
THE HELL
WAS THAT,
BERT?

I DUNNO,
DICK... AND I DON'T
WANNA KNOW--
THIS PLACE IS
CRAWLING WITH
ALL KINDS OF
WACKOS!

LISSEN -- IF I
DIDN'T *OWE* YOU,
MAGNET, YOU
COULDN'T *DRAG* ME
UP HERE TO LEVEL
THREE!

I MEAN,
REINHARDT'S THE
FRIGGIN' *SPOOKIES*
THINK TANK
SINCE THE
MANHATTAN
PROJECT!

I TELL YOU 'BOUT
THE GUY'S THAT
BOUGHT IT LAST
MONTH? SOME NUT
SCIENTIST SPIT TOXIC
WASTE RIGHT IN THEIR
KISSERS--

YEAH, YOU
TOLD ME
ALREADY,
BERT--

AND I HEAR HE
WAS THE SAME BOZO
THAT *DOSED* THE
SHADOW!

IS THIS
THE ROOM?

JEEZ... I SURE
HOPE SO, BUT
IN THIS PLACE,
YA NEVER KN--

WHOEVER IT WAS
BROKE IN THE
OTHER NIGHT
CLEANED UP,
I HEAR--

MANAGEMENT'S KEEPING
HUSH-HUSH, BUT WORD IS
HE MADE OFF WITH A COOL
MILLION IN EXPERIMENTAL
STUFF THE BIGWIGS ARE CALLIN'
"SERIO-INVOCATION
DEVICES"...

PLACE IS
CLEAN--

~ WHEW ~

EXCEPT FOR A COUPLE
OF *GREEN HAIRS*--
WITH *BLOND*
ROOTS...

THIS IS WHERE
HE *STARTED*,
ALL RIGHT... BUT
IT'S A *DEAD END*
FROM HERE. IF I'M
GOING TO FIND THIS
SURROGATE
SHADOW--

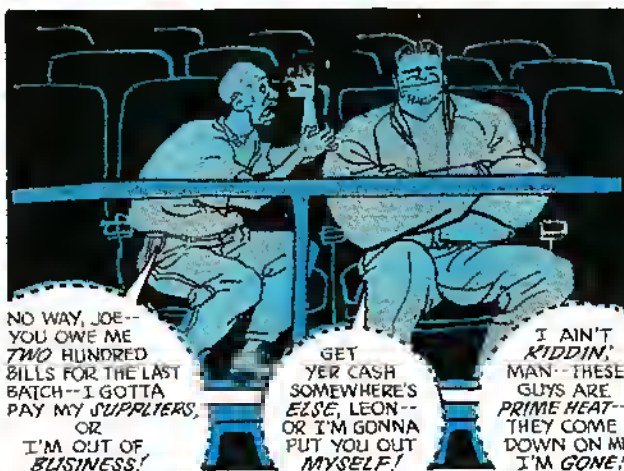
-- IT'S A
SAFE BET
I'M GOING TO
NEED SOME
HELP...

EXIT



WASHMAC

SHUT UP
THE MOVIE,
MAN...



NO WAY, JOE--
YOU OWE ME
TWO HUNDRED
BILLS FOR THE LAST
BATCH--I GOTTA
PAY MY SUPPLIERS,
OR
I'M OUT OF
BUSINESS!

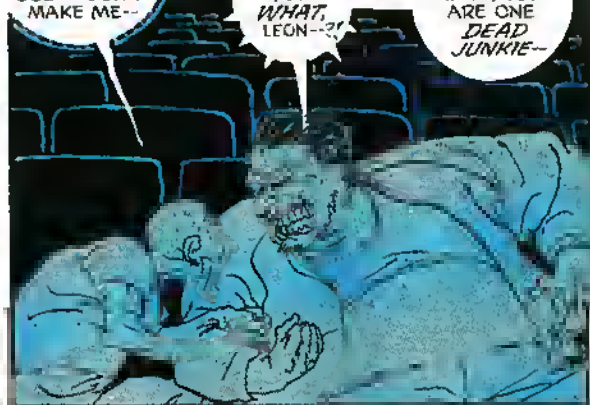
GET
YER CASH
SOMEWHERE'S
ELSE, LEON--
OR I'M GONNA
PUT YOU OUT
MYSELF!

I AIN'T
KIDDIN',
MAN-- THESE
GUYS ARE
PRIME HEAT--
THEY COME
DOWN ON ME,
I'M GONE!

YOU GOTTA
COME THROUGH.
JOE -- DON'T
MAKE ME--

MAKE
YOU
WHAT,
LEON--?

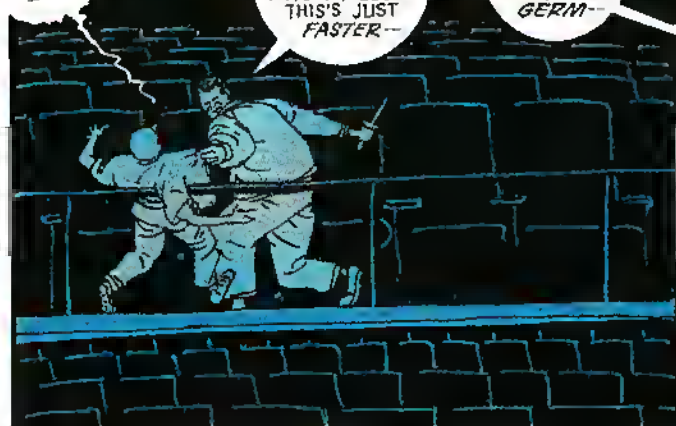
YOU
THREATEN ME,
MAN, YOU
ARE ONE
DEAD
JUNKIE--



JOE--
PLEASE--
I--

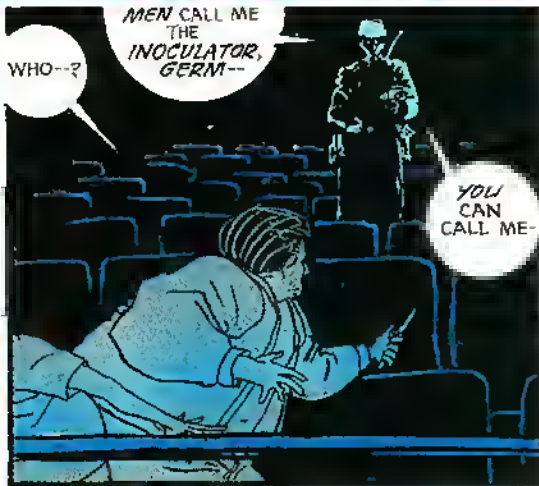
EITHER WAY,
YOU GOIN'
T' HELL, LEON--
THIS'S JUST
FASTER--

NO TALKING
DURING
THE FILM.
GERM--

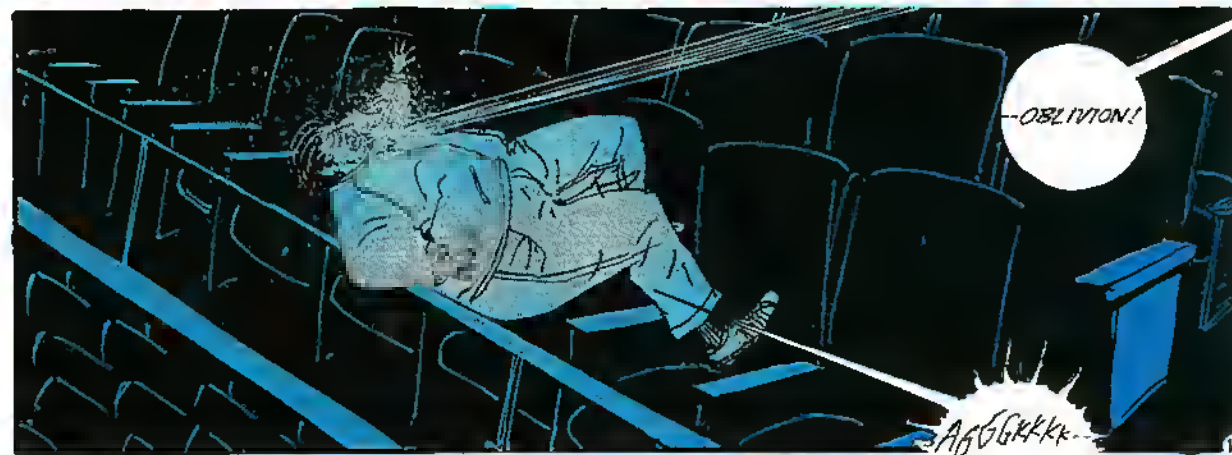


MEN CALL ME
THE
INOCULATOR,
GERM--

WHO--?

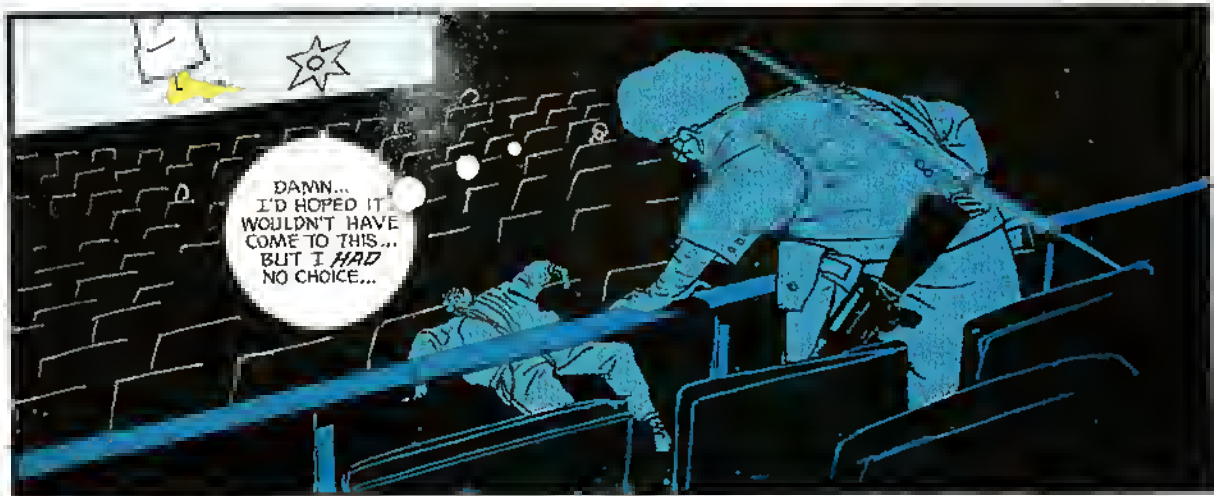


YOU
CAN
CALL ME--



OBIVION!

AGGGGGK--

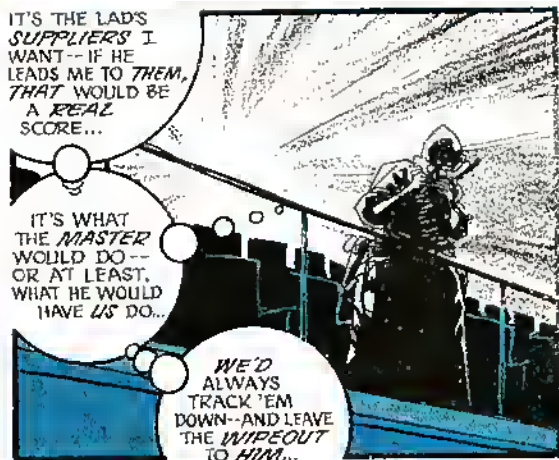


DAMN...
I'D HOPED IT
WOULDN'T HAVE
COME TO THIS...
BUT I *HAD*
NO CHOICE...

IT'S THE LAD'S
SUPPLIERS I
WANT-- IF HE
LEADS ME TO *THEM*,
THAT WOULD BE
A *REAL*
SCORE...

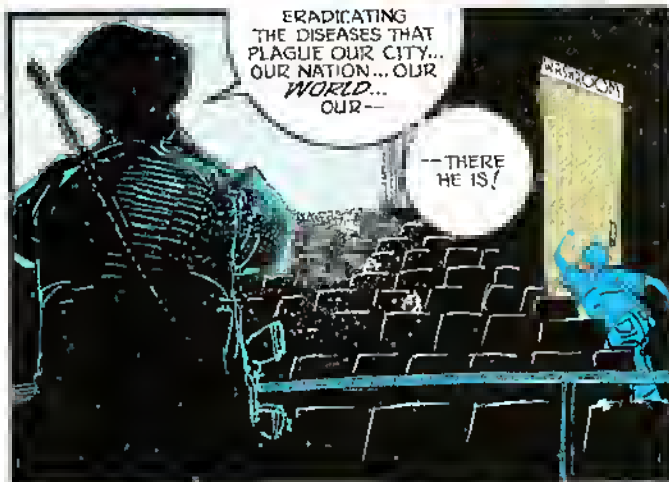
IT'S WHAT
THE *MASTER*
WOULD DO--
OR AT LEAST,
WHAT HE WOULD
HAVE *US* DO...

WE'D
ALWAYS
TRACK 'EM
DOWN-- AND LEAVE
THE *WIPEOUT*
TO HIM...



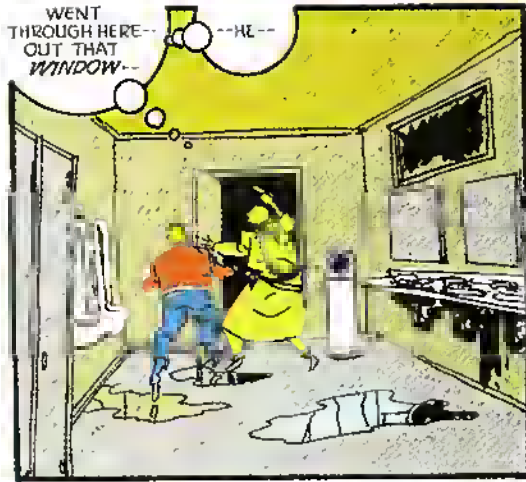
BUT THE
INOCULATOR
HASN'T GOT
THAT
LUXURY...

THE
INOCULATOR
WALKS
ALONE...



ERADICATING
THE DISEASES THAT
PLAGUE OUR CITY...
OUR NATION... OUR
WORLD...
OUR--

--THERE
HE IS!

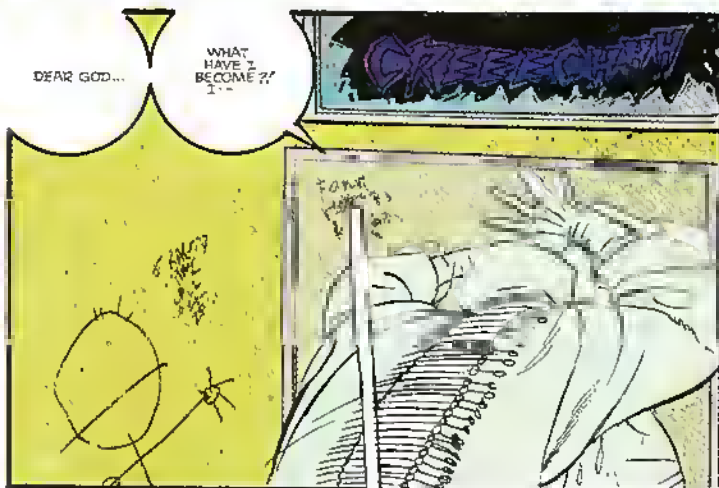
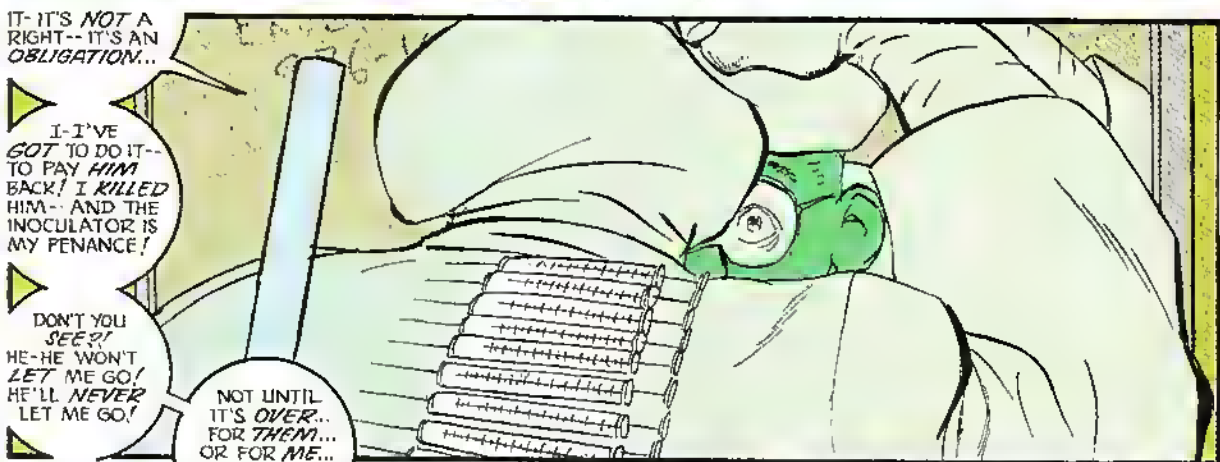
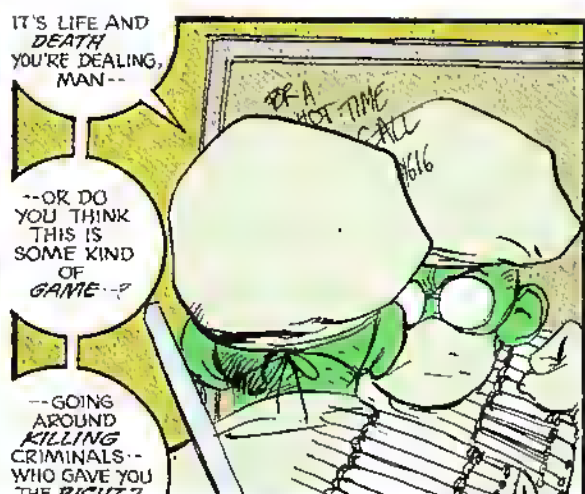
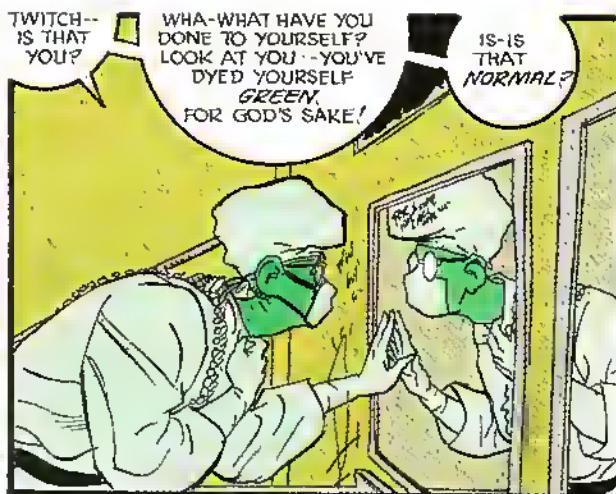


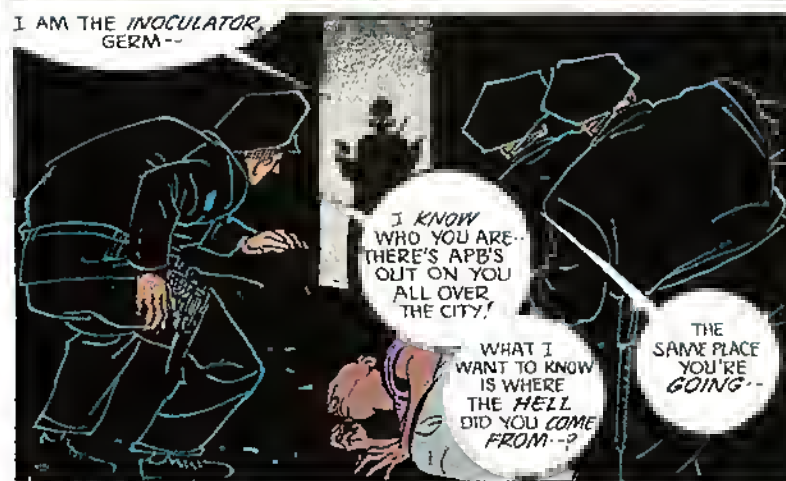
WENT
THROUGH HERE--
OUT THAT
WINDOW--

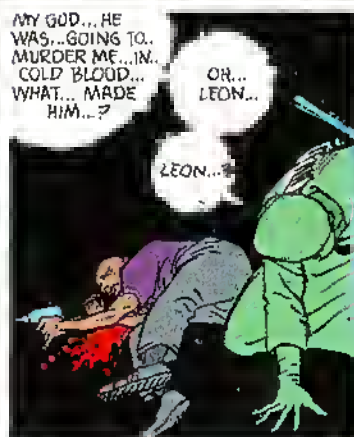
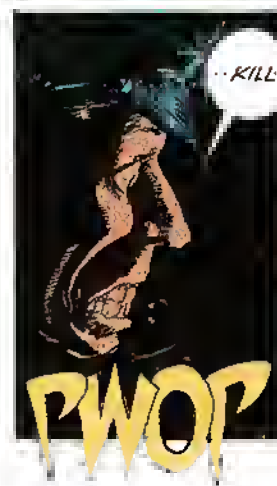
--HE--



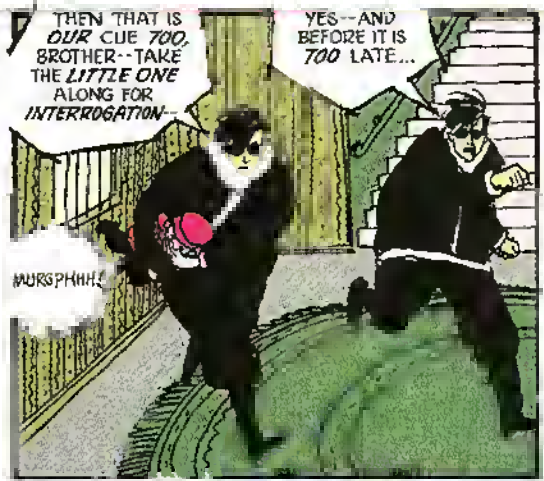
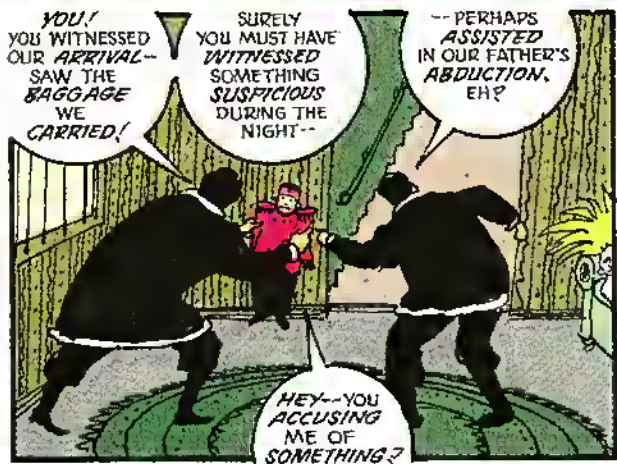
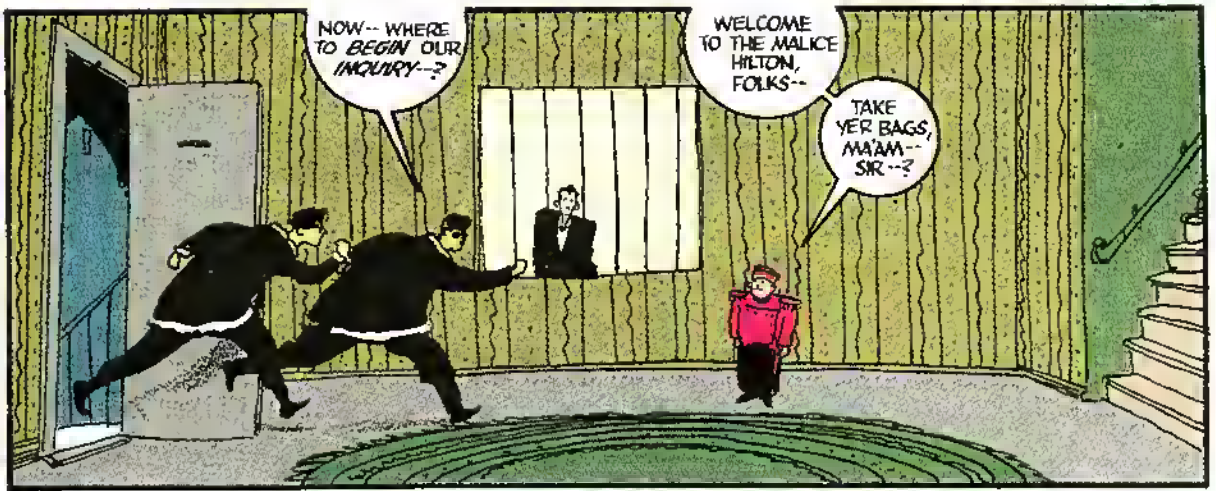
GOOD LORD.

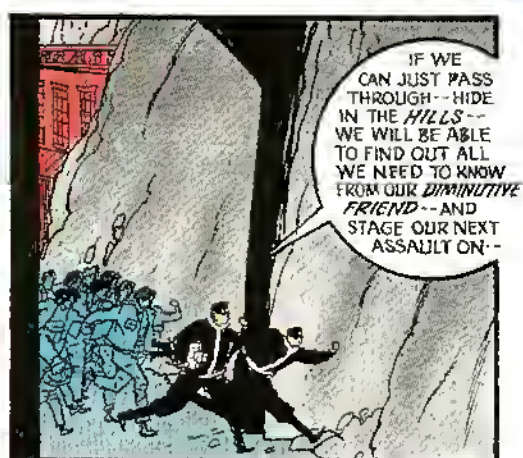












NOW, LOOK, CARDONA--YOU MAY BE THE MAYOR'S PRETTY BOY--BUT I'M STILL THE BOSS AROUND HERE, DAMMIT!

YOU WANNA BE A STOOGE FOR EVERY COSTUMED VIGILANTE COMES DOWN THE PIKE--DO IT IN ANOTHER TOWN! I'VE HAD--

RINNING RINNING

J. BARRIMORE MARX

POLICE COMMISSIONER

UH...HI. HONEY--HOW'S MY LOVEY-DOVEY DOING TONIGHT--?

OH, THAT'S TOO BAD SWEETUMS--UH--

HANG ON A SEC--

IT'S THE MISSUS, JOE-- SHE'S--UH--GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME-- CHANGE OF LIFE AN' ALL-- YOU KNOW HOW IT IS--

--BE A GOOD FELLOW AND GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES ALONE-- LET ME CALM HER DOWN. JUST WAIT RIGHT OUTSIDE. OKAY--?

YOU WERE SAYING, DEAR--?

....

SLAM

ALL RIGHT... GO AHEAD AND SPILL IT, MIKE.

YOU BELIEVE THAT, MAX?

WHY, BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, MY CONNECTION WITH THE SHADOW MADE ME THE FORCE'S MOST VALUED DETECTIVE...

...NOW THAT CREEP MAKES IT SOUND LIKE SOMETHING DIRTY!

WELL, SIR-- WE WERE EXPECTING THE SHADOW-- TOO BAD THE INOCULATOR SHOWED UP INSTEAD--



BEEN TRYIN' T'GET IT OUTTA MY HEAD--FIGGERED A FEW FRAMES WOULD MAKE IT GO AWAY-- BUT IT WON'T!

HE-HE JUST WIPED OUT DWIGHT AND O'CONNER-- ZAPPED 'EM WITH HIS NEEDLE GUNS!

WE WERE SHAKING DOWN THIS PUNK-- THE USUAL STUFF-- AND HE JUST COMES OUTTA NOWHERE!



ALL RIGHT, MIKE-- JUST RELAX.

BUT WHAT IF HE GOES PUBLIC-- WHAT HE SEEN COULD SCREW US ALL--

MIKE-- ONLY ONE GUY'S GONNA GET SCREWED HERE-- IT'S THAT INOCULATOR FELLA!



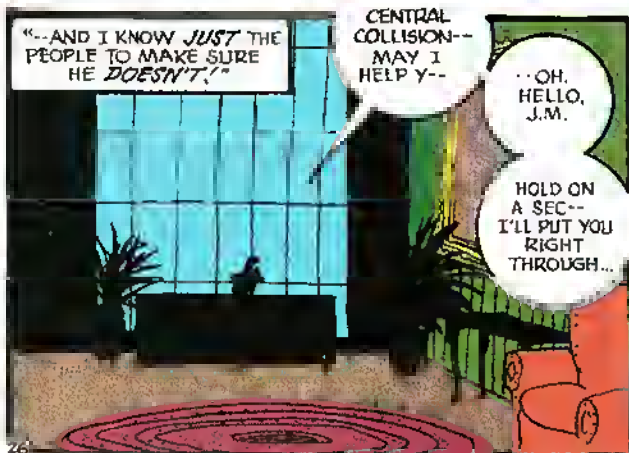
THERE'S LOTS O' PEOPLE OUT THERE DON'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO COP KILLERS--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY DON'T KNOW THEY WERE MOONLIGHTING AS JUNK DEALERS!



ONCE THE NEWS GETS OUT, BETWEEN THE PRESS AND THE F.B.I. THE WHOLE CITY IS GONNA BE LOOKING FOR THIS GUY!

ONLY THING WE GOTTA MAKE SURE OF IS HE DOESN'T GET TAKEN ALIVE--

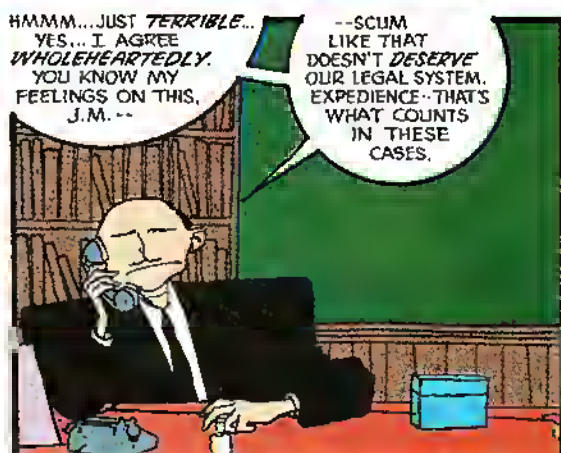


"--AND I KNOW JUST THE PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T!"

CENTRAL COLLISION-- MAY I HELP Y--

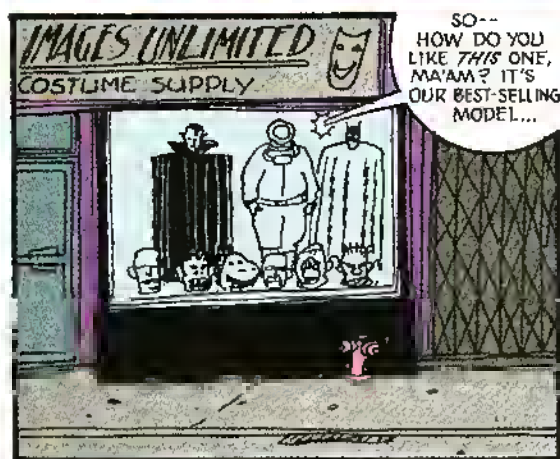
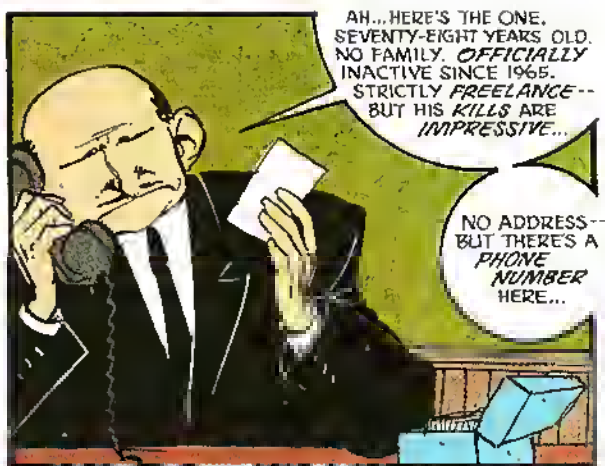
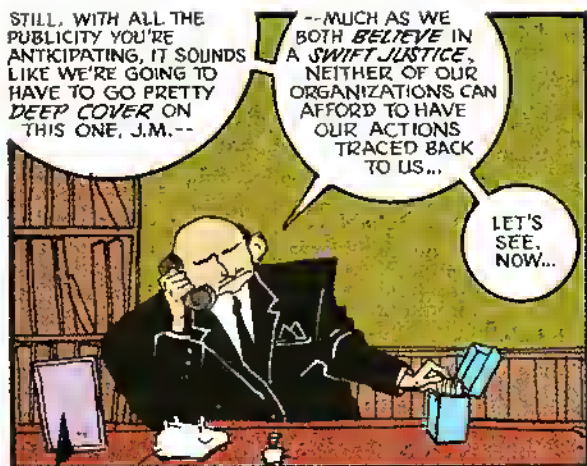
OH, HELLO, J.M.

HOLD ON A SEC-- I'LL PUT YOU RIGHT THROUGH...



HMMM...JUST TERRIBLE... YES... I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY. YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS ON THIS, J.M. --

--SCUM LIKE THAT DOESN'T DESERVE OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. EXPEDIENCE-- THAT'S WHAT COUNTS IN THESE CASES.



NEXT NIGHT OF THE AVENGER

SHADOW MANIA

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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L-3335

Dear Editor:

SHADOW #12 was a dandy.

The longer the Finn story goes on, the more interesting it gets! If most comics ran a six-par story, the reader would be screaming for a merciful end to it all.

I was happy to see the Shadow's musings on page 8 about the quality of his agents—I was wondering if he noticed that it wasn't quite like the old days, and that his agents are basically a bunch of flakes like Twitch and DeWitt. Mavis is just about the only serious one in the lot. Even Harry Vincent has become much more eccentric in his old age.

I'm going to miss Galen Finn, the most interesting of the brothers. And in case the readers are wondering, there really was such a murder case years ago in Chicago—a sausage king disposed of his wife's body in one of the factory vats in the 1890s. Made quite a splash then.

Just from that arm sticking out of the bed, I think I'm going to be quite nauseated to meet Ma Finn. Andy Helfer has made every villain in #12 a masterpiece in chilling weirdness and this one read, smelted, and thrilled like the classic 1930s pulp you're aiming for. And the covers of #11 and #12 were glorious—though #11's cover looked more like the bad guys than the good guys.

Could we see The Shadow versus some genuine public enemies, as in the old "Crime Does Not Pay" books by Biro and Wood? People like Wilbur Underhill; Baby Face Nelson; and so forth. Or Louis Lepke and his Murder Incorporated!

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

Dear Mike Carlin:

I am a Shadow fan. I think it is a hereditary situation. When I was growing up, my father told me stories about reading *The Shadow* magazine during his boyhood. The descriptions he presented—plus information I read in books about the pulps, radio shows, and serials of the period, along with Philip Jose Farmer's *Tarzan Alive*—fired a desire to experience this character for myself.

Finally, DC's comic brought my dream alive during the 1970s. I savored Mike Kaluta and Denny O'Neil's work more than that of any other comic published at that time. I read all the Pyramid-Jove paperback reprints, the Dover facsimile reprint, the Doubleday "Crime Club"

reprints, the Walter Gibson and Anthony Tollin volumes and others. Then all these things were gone. The Shadow had vanished again.

Well, he has returned once more. The Chaykin updating—particularly the "Shangri-La" aspects, which seem better suited to Doc Savage than to THE SHADOW—seemed a little wobbly. Andy Helfer, however, has taken this new beginning and reinforced the gritty violence with wonderful black humor. Kyle Baker is doing an excellent job also.

My only complaint is that The Shadow seems to be operating out in the open too much—he has become too public a figure. He should be—like his creative progeny, the Batman—a creature of the night. Notice the discrepancy between the covers and the interior art: the covers are dark (particularly the cover of issue #13—black with pale highlights), yet the inside art is filled with high-tech flash and daytime lighting. (However, issue #13 does have more action occurring in darkness than in past issues.)

This complaint aside, I think the book's team is doing a fine job. Also, I enjoy seeing characters pop up from the old pulp series—this gives the book a sense of temporal continuity, a life beyond the confines of the margins on the pages. You're making a Shadow fan quite happy.

A request: please don't cross over or team up this book's characters with other DC characters. One exception, I suppose, would be the Clark Savage group.

A question: with THE SHADOW drawing a fairly strong following, are there any possibilities of Warner Communications picking up reprint rights to the pulp series?

Duane Spurlock
2340 Grinstead #3
Louisville, KY 40204

No plans from Warner to do any reprints. Duane ... but you might be happy to learn that the classic SHADOW stories of Denny O'Neil and Mike Kaluta you mention rather reverently are on DC's publishing schedule for later this year!

Dear Renee and Mike:

When I think about what element of the "Seven Deadly Finns" I would choose to try and relate the storyline of this series to an "outsider," I reach an impasse. The art I can just show; it's sure to impress. But the story ... should I mention Mr. Magnet, monkey chow,

exploding virus teeth, Twitchkowitz, monkey business, crazed Rastafarians, the toy shop/drug emporium, Finn's fatal diamond weenies ... there's just too much happening to try and explain!

Fortunately, Kyle Baker's art is so good, people should need no other inducement to just buy it and read it. The cover of this anniversary issue was tremendous. Was it printed directly from pencil without inking?

Can't wait for the finale. Back in 30!

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ

Not pencils, Charlie—pastels over a black background. Glad ya liked it!

Dear Mike:

"Dark Shadows" was the biggest important character bloodbath since CRISIS #121 I can't begin to imagine next issue. It looks like my hopes for a return of the Finns are dashed. In fact, the only group of people that didn't have a member die this issue were the psychopaths. Shheeeeeesh!

The SHADOW reminded me all too much of Arthur Carlson from *WKRP in Cincinnati* when he was playing with his model airplane. I'll try not to worry, though, until Elton starts to wear plaid suits and large white belts.

To round out my ramblings: Twitch sure had better not be dead!! I will be very disheartened, to say the least, if he is. Resurrect him, *schnell!* I don't like it when comic companies very contrivedly bring heroes back from the grave, but if you don't in this case I might do something drastic....

Me
631 Stella Dr.
Decatur, IL 62526

What're ya gonna do, Me, kill us? Won't do ya much good—we'll just come back from the dead to getcha!

(We know that's you, Andy! How many times do we have to tell you that you can't write letters to your own book!! So just stop writing these things and get back to writing THE SHADOW!)

Dear Mike:

While I still miss Howard Chaykin's vicious wit and stunning graphics, I have grown to admire and appreciate the team of Helfer and Baker. Kyle's quirky "cartoon-realism" approach is refreshingly bizarre and most welcome in the comic book fanboy world of rip-

pling abdominals and bulging biceps. Besides, anyone who's ever ridden a subway in New York City knows these wiggly Baker-people really *do* exist!

As to the ever-growing debate over possible crossovers with other DC characters, I understand the panic but think it actually could work. Obviously, any ham-fisted writer could shoe-horn in anyone from the DC universe, with predictably horrific results. I could just see the Shadow saddled with the likes of Aquaman or Matter-Eater Lad! But Andrew Helfer has shown himself as anything but ham-fisted. His approach to plot and his realistic dialogue is first-class! I think he should be encouraged to find a solid, logical way to bring in the two big guns—Batman and Superman. I, for one, would just love to see how the Shadow would deal with these boys.

In the new DC Universe, Superman's powers are more a matter of his own willpower, and who better to turn that power on itself than the man who can cloud men's (and even super-men's) minds? As for the Batman, it'd be a kick to see somebody outsmart and outchill the Dark Knight while at the same time outspend and outcharm Bruce Wayne! My point would be to show the long-underwear crowd that for all their power, skill, and licensing, they still can't hold a candle to the old master.

C'mon, guys, what do you say? A one-time-only one-shot? A four-issue mini-series? I say it's worth a shot if it's done right, and only for a limited time. We can't have the Elongated Man or Detective Chimp sneaking in, can we? You guys can do it!

Bob Keenan
194 Bay 22nd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11214

The debate rages on....

Yo, Andy:

I enjoyed THE SHADOW #12 and I loved the art but I have a burning question: Does Curious George know what the man in the yellow hat's been doing lately?

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St.
Troy, NY 12180

No comment.

Dear Andy, Kyle, and Mike:

Since everyone is always writing and saying how this is the first letter they've ever written, I guess it's my turn! This is the first typed letter I've ever written!

Anyway, I felt compelled to tell you what a great product you've got. I just started reading THE SHADOW recently; I didn't really get involved in the story until issue #8. I think that the Finns are the most fleshed-out villains ever to hit the comic world. If not that, then they are at least the most diversified crooked family in comicdom ... to hell with the Kingpin. (Heh, heh!)

This book is so appealing, thanks to its characters—Twitch, the Nurse, the Shadow's sons, et al. Strangely enough,

the most rigid character happens to be the Shadow himself. In actuality he is the most inhuman of all the characters. By this I don't mean to say that he is not a realistic and "interesting" character.

My last gibe is that I almost didn't buy the book because of the writer ... and I must have been crazy!! Andy Helfer is an amazing writer suited like no other to write THE SHADOW.

John Slonim
23 Scarborough Rd.
Toronto, Ontario
M4E-3H6
CANADA

P.S. Kyle is awesome.

Andy, is that you again? Or maybe it's you, Kyle?!! All right, all right, we guess it really is John Slonim.

Dear DC:

I have been a Shadow fan for a long time. I have collected Gibson's stories as well as the old radio recordings, and now I am pleased to say that I am collecting the DC SHADOW series.

First of all, I would like to say that the stories are great and the art is wonderful. But I do have to say I like Baker's art better than Sienkiewicz'. (Of course, that's just my personal preference.) I just loved #7's cover, it's one of the best black and whites I have ever seen. Covers of #9 and #11 are great, too.

I noticed that on page 10 of issue #8, one of the drug dealers tells the Shadow to put the Uzis away and go home. The Shadow doesn't carry Uzis. He carries a

pair of the Ingram M10 submachine guns, the probable reason being it uses the same .45 cal. ammo as his M1911 1As, and they are easier to conceal. (But that dealer also didn't know about that Stinger rocket launcher.)

I also have a hard time dealing with that hovercraft. You would think that it would be rather easy to spot, like when they are about five feet above traffic. Plus the Shadow has a tendency to stand up in an open hovercraft that's probably going about 60 or 70 miles per hour, not very smart or realistic, if you ask me. (Besides, the way those kids drive, it's a wonder he hasn't had his head knocked off by a lamp post or something.)

I like Detective Magnet and his cub reporter sidekick, and I hope to see them again throughout the rest of the series.

As far as the team-up/crossover deal, I am undecided. So I leave it in your hands. But if you can't do it right, don't do it at all.

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NEXT ISSUE: The team-up story you've all been calling for/against—and we like to think we'll do it right, E. Vance—The Avenger crosses paths with ShadowCorps! Will the letters pages ever be the same again? That's 3D days until Andy, Kyle, Bob, Tom, Renee, and ye olde editor return with SHADOW #17!

—Mike Carlin

